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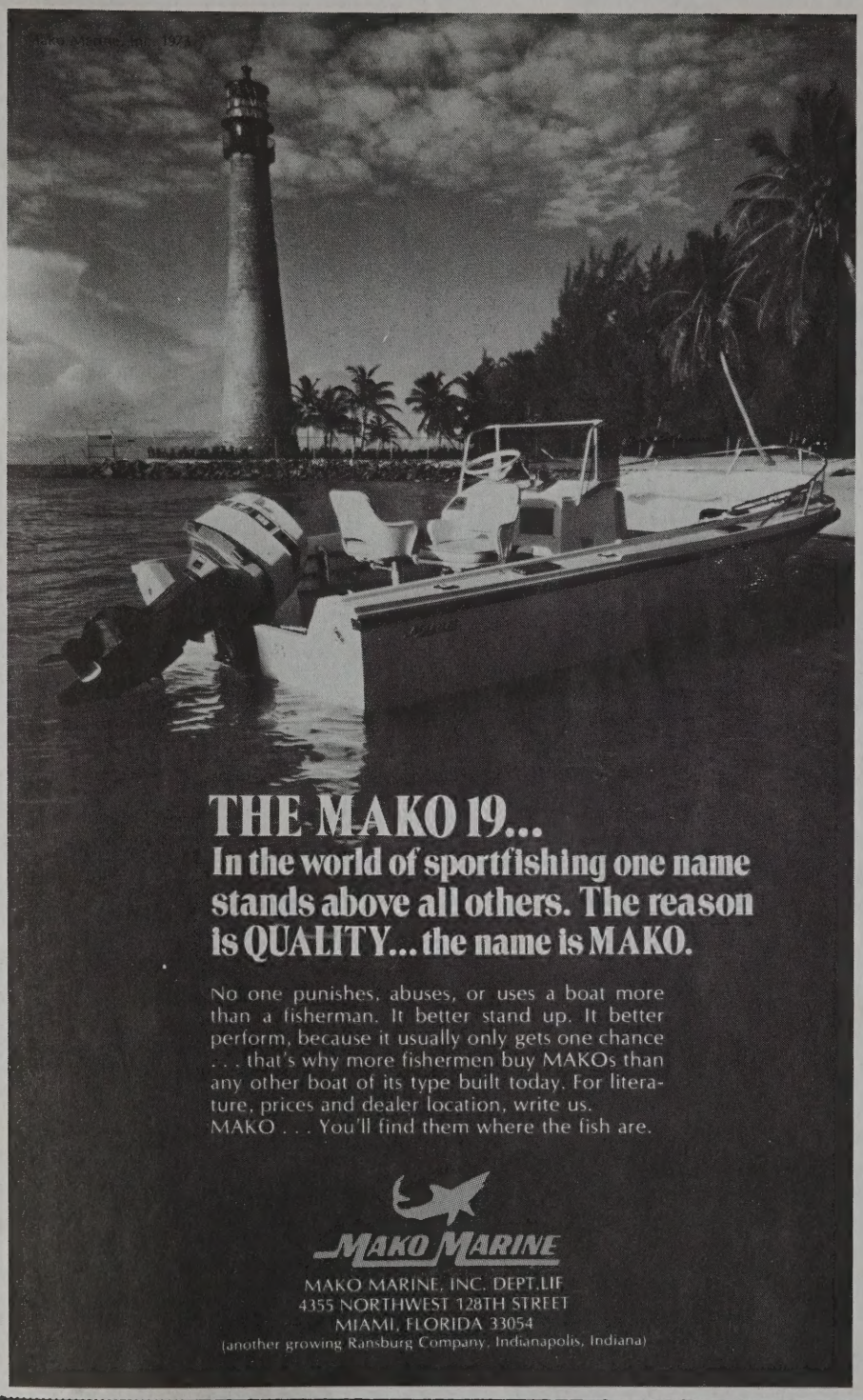
The Long Island FISHERMAN

MARCH 15th, ISSUE NO. 9, 1973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QUIBBLES?

Dear Mr. Reinfelder:

I am 1000% (no that's not good, make it 100%) with you on your objection to the L.I. Sound Bridge. But I have a couple of quibbles.

Anent your point 2 – bridges do alleviate traffic problems . . . But more important, you do not mention the affect the bridge will have on water transportation. I have seen no plans but there is a nasty rumor going around that the clearances are so low that if you have a sail boat with a decent sized stick in her, you will have to use two spans in the middle sound. Lean back in your chair and think about that. It will certainly create a perilous situation.

You fellows are doing a grand job and it is appreciated.

Eben A. Valentine

Gentlemen:

With all the current controversy over the proposed Rye-Oyster Bay bridge in your fine paper . . . I am one of the few shore fishermen (casting only, for bass) left in our area, Westchester County. With all the argument over the bridge, I am amused by the fact that the City of Rye and the Citizens For Sound Planning are making impassioned pleas to save "our" shoreline from the bridge. It so happens that Rye, as well as most of Westchester and Southern Connecticut have their shoreline owned by the upper class and strictly a no-no for fishing, or enjoyment by the general population. I have asked several crusaders about this facet, and have not gotten an answer of any kind from any of them. As you probably know, in this area it is almost impossible to get space to keep a boat in the water, for any price! So all of those who do not have the money for a boat, or prefer to cast for their prey are left out of the local fishing scene. So it seems to me that these crusaders are trying to get public support to save what is mainly their own private properties, even though a person would be brought in for trespassing if found fishing on these shores. Many, if not all of my brother-fishermen, as well as I, are against the bridge for a variety of reasons. But as the situation now exists, a bridge would help me personally to get to new areas where I can fish in peace. I hope you will let these facets of the controversy be known because it is a problem to the few 'strictly casters' as well as would-be 'strictly casters' in our area.

Charlie Cianci
Harrison, N.Y.

The Long Island
FISHERMAN
THE LARGEST WEEKLY GUIDE FOR FISHERMEN IN THE N.Y. AREA

VOL. 8, NO. 9 MARCH 15, 1973

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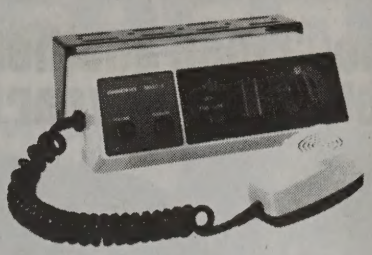
FRONT PAGE PHOTO

The "Hot Spot." Early season striper fans, when the fish begin to hit the beach.



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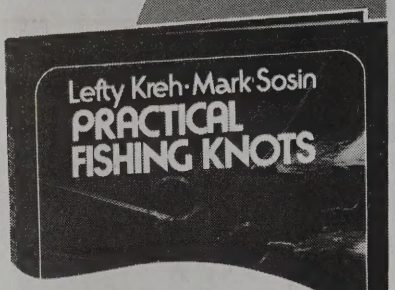

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CHUM LINES

TO CONVINCE ONE READER

Dear Mr. Vetter,

I would like to comment on a section of your article titled "Power Plant Menace" that appeared in the Feb. 8 issue of the L.I.F. that concerned itself with thermal pollution. In it you said, "The flounders here display signs of this disease (fin and tail rot) in something like a one in five ratio; and I can only conclude (perhaps erroneously) that the high water temperature is a factor."

As a student of biology at a local university and as the manager of a large marine section in an aquarium that sells both salt water and fresh water fish, I feel a bit qualified to tell you that you were not erroneous in concluding that the high water temperature was a factor in the fin and tail rot cases which you mentioned.

Fin and tail rot in salt water fish is very often caused by a bacteria of the Vibro genus that if flaggelated and which can attack and eat away the fins of fish which it comes in contact with . . Under normal conditions, the fish has enough natural resistance to protect itself from becoming infected. But under conditions that put a heavy stress on the fish, such as abnormally high water temperatures, the fish's resistance to the disease is lowered and so it becomes infected. Now water temperature is not the only factor that when changed can subject the fish to an abnormal amount of stress but it definitely is a very important one . . .

If this letter can convince just one reader of the threat that thermal pollution can cause, then its purpose will have been served.

Tight lines always,
Tony Di Lernia

Sirs:

Sometimes enough can be too much.

Let's keep a lot of unqualified fingers off the panic button.

Ecology, Environment, Pollution, Thermal Pollution - everyone in the act.

I've caught snappers, as a kid, with Lironica ovalis in their gills, in Jamaica Bay, Great South Bay and, on the north shore in Huntington Bay – and this back in the late 20's and early 30's.

So, please, let's be sensible and not have everyone fall overboard on this environmental deal until all the facts are in, like the AEC report.

Back in the 20's and 30's Ecology was practically unknown - but the bug was there.

Yours,
Artie Reilly
Rosedale, N.Y.

The fact that Ecology was practically unknown in the 20's and 30's, is greatly responsible for the ails which we all face now, Mr. Reilly.

Most people have now become aware of this.

Louise Reina
Deer Park, N.Y.

Dear Mr. Vetter:

Your revelations on the Power Plant Menace, issue 6, Feb. 8, 1973, left me amazed and with a degree of indignation in that here as well as in Japan "science and technology is being used in a degenerate way," as Dr. Jun Ui of Tokyo University put it in commenting on the Japanese problems. "Science seems to give priority to industry," he comments further.

Here's a humble suggestion with hopes it might spawn something in answer to the problem, in the proper realm:

Aerate the water outflow in vertical sprays before discharging it into the river. This might temper it quite a bit. Conduct the outflow through a perforated pipe as long as possible in length on the bottom or banks of the river, effectibg sufficient dilution. By combining the two, a system of aeration can be assembled in the river or other body of water.

You are at liberty to make use of the thoughts. Keep fighting. It's for all of us whether we realize it or not.

Sincerely,
Wallace Severio
Westbrook, Conn.

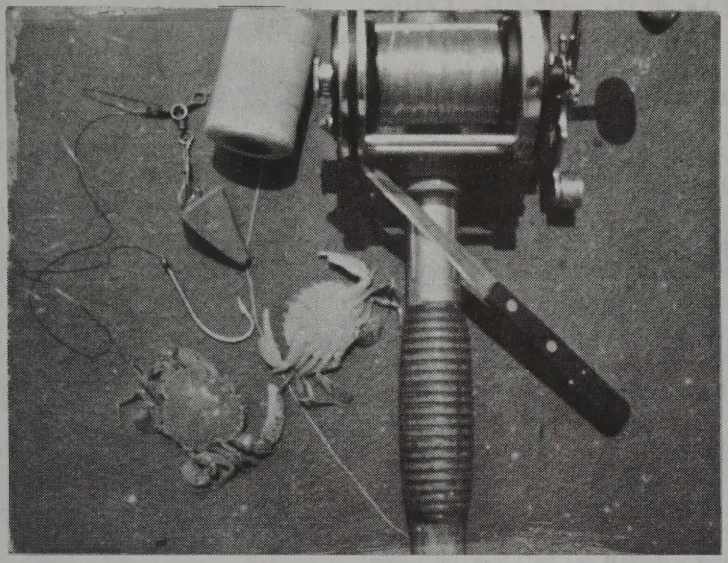
And Andre Peyroune could tell us of a power plant in France, whose effluent is used to heat a whole town before it passes back, cooled, into the sea.

– Ed.

TRY THE CALICO CRAB

by JOHN GORREBEECK

THIS METHOD takes a lot of time and patience, but its rewards are well worth it.



As you can see in the picture above, this is all the equipment required for fishing with a conventional reel. The thread used is common cotton thread. A 4 oz. pyramid weight is attached to one end of lingage. Your line is fastened to the three-way swivel. To the other end of the swivel you attach your 2-foot leader with hook-size either 5/0,6/0, or 7/0, depending on the size of the crab, as shown.

These hooks must have a straight shank so that the crab can be tied on properly.

The crab which is used as bait must be shedding or soft to entice your game.

Purchase a crabbing net with a square front and you can cut the length of the handle to make it easier to use.

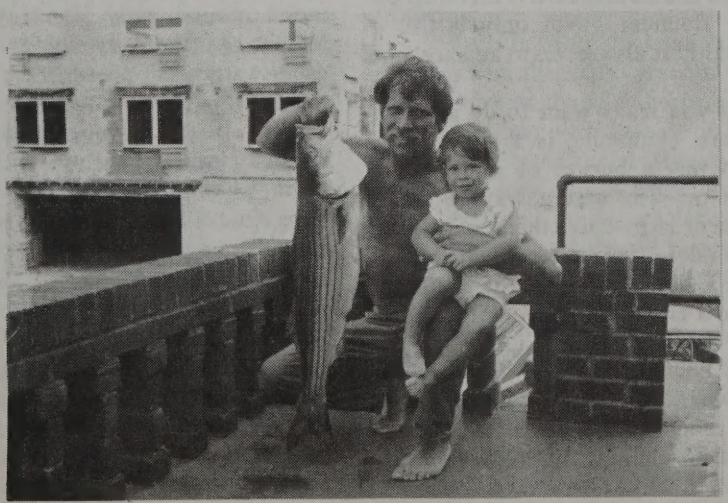
You have to start 2 hours before low tide walking your beach area looking for crabs that are running,which usually is a male carrying a female.

These crabs are called double back. Take the smaller crab which is the shedder. Also look for pockets which the waves have created and dig along the shoulder. To check that the crab is a good shedder, break the front claw to see if the meat is hard. This may sound cruel, but a crab will grow it back.

Finding a soft crab you can then with a small kitchen knife peel the outer shell. The hook must lay lengthwise underneath the crab. By doing this you can tie the crab on easily with the cotton thread.

This picture of a 15 lb. bass caught on the shore at Long Beach, Long Island was taken by the method described above.

This summer when you use your calico crab, don't forget to let the last wave help you beach your bass.



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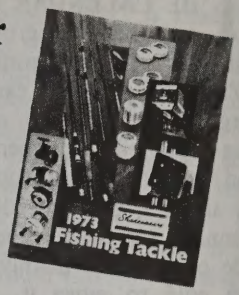

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TO CATCH SOMETHING

by RON ONORATO

THE CALENDAR read March 30 and the weatherman predicted a mild day with temperatures in the low 50's. This was fine except somebody forgot to tell mother nature that she was supposed to cooperate. I shivered and shrank into my foul weather gear as another gust of wind blew. My spinning rod was stationary over the side of the boat mainly because I was too cold to move it. Then ever so gently, the tip plunged down. I instinctively lifted the tip and was fast to the first flounder of the season. It looked like spring finally arrived.

After a long winter of inactivity, bass fishermen, big game specialists, and average sports alike share the same enthusiasm to catch something that swims. That something that swims is known as the winter flounder, locally called flounder, flattie, or what have you.

Arriving in the bays and creeks of Long Island in the fall, the flatfish feed voraciously until really cold weather sets in, sometime around the end of December. The fish then settle in the mud in a dormant state until the end of February or beginning of March. The fish then feed actively for most of the spring and depart for the cooler waters of the ocean by the end of May. Most fish have passed out of the inlets by the first week of June.

As the weather warms the water, the flounder stirs out of the mud in search of food. The first fish are usually thin from the lack of eating throughout the winter. Like most flatfish, it spends most of its time on the bottom rooting in the mud for worms, shrimp, and other edibles. Unlike its cousin, the fluke, the flounder rarely leaves the vicinity of the bottom. This should be kept in mind by anglers seeking these fish.

For the most part the average bay flounder will be ½ to 1½ pounds in weight, with a few giants scaling the 3 pound mark. For this reason, the fisherman should keep the tackle on the light side. For the most sport, a light spinning rod of 6 feet in length and matching reel of 6 pound mono will suffice. This rig will handle sinkers in the ½ to 1 ounce range. For those who like conventional tackle, a very light boat rod and bay reel accommodating 20 pound line should be the heaviest used. This rig will handle sinkers in the 2 or 3 ounce range.

Since the mouth of the flounder is very small, the hooks being used should be on the small side. Chestertown long shank type hooks in sizes 10 to no larger than 8 are the most popular as well as most effective. One hook is tied onto the leader of the other hook, so that a double hook rig is made. The less hardware the better. You should stick to just hooks and sinkers.

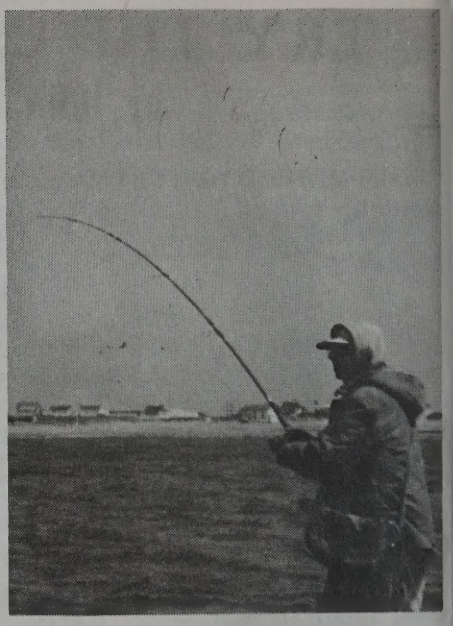
Generally, the currents are light in most of the bays where flounders hang out, so you can usually get by with small weights. Usually ½ or 1 ounce of lead is enough to hold bottom; while in spots where the current is fast-running, 2 or 3 ounces of weight can be used.

There are a wide variety of baits available to use. Sandworms and bloodworms are good baits? but in recent years, the price of a dozen of either has gotten so out of hand that few anglers are now bothering with them. The skimmer clam, dyed either red or yellow is fast becoming a popular replacement for the inflated worm. Dying clams is relatively simple. Shuck out a dozen skimmers. Put them in a big plastic or glass bowl and cover them with water. Add about three drops of Ehler's red or yellow dye and let sit in the refrigerator for a couple of hours. Drain the water out and store them in the freezer for future use. A dozen skimmers are sometimes good for two trips.

Perhaps the most popular as well as the most effective bait of all for the spring flounder is the ordinary bank or ribbed mussel. Although the insides of a fresh mussel are difficult to keep on the hook, with a little patience you will master it and fresh mussel is filet mignon to the flounder. Not only is this a great bait: it also serves as an excellent chum.

If you really want to do a job on flounders, chumming is a must. It is best to buy a bucket of mussels just for chum. The easiest way to chum with them is to crush them and throw them under the boat. You can also crunch a bunch of them and throw them in a chum pot mixed with ground bunker or catfood. Corn and rice thrown liberally over the side will also work well. One way or the other an angler should chum for better results.

If no chum is available, then stir the bottom up. As the mud is disturbed, all sorts of small worms and other food is sent into the current, thus attracting flounders. It is chumming without chum.



A double-header of nice flounders come aboard.

A long, flowing bait rather than one that is all bunched up is preferred. The flounder will then have less trouble sucking it up. Paint your sinkers bright yellow or flourescent orange; the flounder seems to be attracted by the lively colors. Some anglers even favor adding small lengths of shiny red tubing to the shank of the hook in hopes of further attracting the flounder.

One of the essential features of flounder fishing is that the bait should be bounced on the bottom frequently. A flounder will see the moving bait and try to grab it before it gets away. As a nibble is felt, wait a second or so to allow the flounder to suck the bait in before lifting the tip and setting the hook.

Since the flatties get in a feeding mood around early March, and early March is often very cold, we should dress warmly. Foul weather gear is a must, while the rest underneath is your choice. Just remember it is easier to remove clothes than not have them at all.

One of my favorite spots for early flounders is in Moriches Bay. Even with fairly strong northerly winds, the bay has certain spots that are sheltered. Great South Bay, Captree, and the flats off Heckscher State Park are all good early season spots for flatties. All of these areas are accessible by either partly boats or by skiff fishermen.

THE BOAT AS A FISHING TOOL

PART II- The Big Small Boat
by AL REINFELDER

A DEFINITE ROMANCE is starting to grow about the new fishing machines represented by boats such as the Mako. Without exaggerating the case, I can see that within a few years this type of craft will dominate inshore sportfishing - and also be well represented offshore. This is the bold, open type of boat which speaks of adventure and daring. The full exposure to the elements; the small vessel on a vast sea; the speed when needed; and the functional manueverability for inshore navigation and fishing.

Without stretching things too far, the new center-console, open design hull of from 17 to 24 feet (these are the extreme dimensions), is also just about as close as you can get to an all-around boat. As with everything, boats are always a compromise. What's good in a rip, is not necessarily good in a tidal creek? the offshore wonder is not always a rockman's friend. But given the normal range of activities of a Long Island - OK, let's say a North Atlantic - angler, the glass outboard or I/O will enhance these activities without sweat.

Now, given this glowing introduction, just which of the many styles and power sources should you buy? No easy answer here. Start off by outlining the areas you are really going to fish. Be careful here. If you live in Glen Cove you will ultimately fish the Western End of L.I Sound more than you will Montauk, even if you like Montauk better. Style your boat for the Sound. Then list the types of fishing you will be doing most of: bottom fishing, casting, trolling - and be specific. Finally, check your wallet. A combination of the answers to these three questions will start you off in the right direction.

For the true bayman, the man who prefers the marsh grass to the dust of an inlet or the wide-horizoned deep blue, a primary consideration will be draft. Keep in mind that you'll be creeping along marsh edges, skimming over flats and pulling up into shallow coves. Your boat should be pretty flat at the stern. Also, an outboard will be your best source of power, simply because it's possible to lift the lower unit high and dry when you need to.

A length of 17 feet will be fine; 19 more than enough. Period. If you feel the need for a longer boat, stop and ask yourself why. You're not going into the party boat business, are you?

Long Island anglers can get satisfactory service out of boats such as would be ideal for south shore baymen, with one exception: they'll pound their brains to pudding. A modified vee is a must for those who will at times be skimming madly after bluefish over aqueous imitations of the Rocky Mountains. But don't go too far in this direction, for you've still got to slide in among the rocks for bass. A nineteen footer is almost perfect for the Sound. 22 is nice too; but larger is not necessary. I would still lean toward an outboard, if only to allow me to drift in among the boulders without snagging.

Inlet runners should strive for boats from 19 to 24 feet with modified or deep-vee hull design. And I/O's have it over outboards because they allow you a proper transom to defeat following seas. The greater hull depth also adds to your stability while trolling. If, however, you - like I - prefer casting to trolling, a modified vee, or even a semi flat hull design will offer you a far more stable casting platform while drifting through the mess of an inlet, or at the surf's fringe.

The daring souls who would be modern day Ishmaels in pursuit of horse mackerel, spindly beaks, and other assorted wonders of the Gulf Stream's inshore edge, should go as big and deep as they can afford. And they should look for one very important thing the other guys don't need: large fuel tanks. A boat should be capable of the round trip, a long day's troll, and a lot in reserve for those rare occasions when you don't hit the inlet right on the bottom after a far haul. (I ran out of gas right between the Montauk Jetties once - and I learned my lesson!)

Realizing that you will have to customize your boat, you should list all accessory items right at the start - for cost estimation, if nothing else. Your boat will cost a lot more than you think, because in addition to the listed price of the boat, motor and accessories, you will have to pay the boat yard a lot of money for installing all this gear, and for putting the damn thing into the water. You will - inevitably - add a few "necessary features" - to your boat, which will be added to your bill in fat round numbers.

What do you need on a boat besides the engine and the fuel tanks?

Think about the following potential pluses:

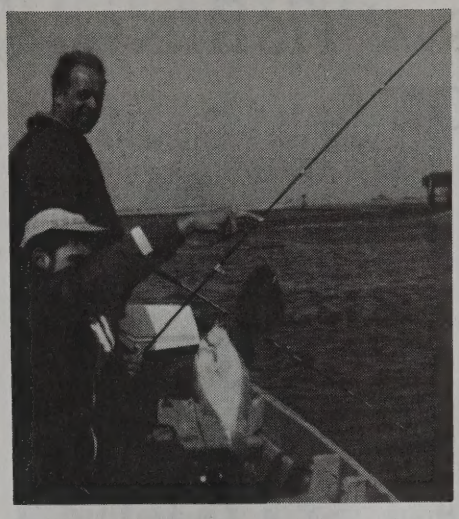
(1) Absolutely necessary accessories:

Continued on Pg. 14

SKINNY BLUE OR NOTHING

by TED WELLS

THIS MORNING I got up rather late which is unusual in mid-winter, and I checked the thermometer and then the wind direction and velocity by looking at the neighbor's wind gauge. February in R.I. there is not much in the line of salt water fishing so I plan a mile or two walk on the beach each day, when the weather is decent. Sometimes this walk pays off in a clam or two, or maybe a plug that some unlucky surfman has either lost or had taken from him by a bluefish. Just thinking of this reminded me of a bunch of unfinished "Skinny Blue" plugs down in the basement on the work bench, so I went down to do a little work on them.



During this operation I got to day-dreaming of the many different trips chasing either bass or bluefish and the situations that occurred. These were sometimes serious and sometimes certainly on the comical side. The ones that pleased me the most were the latter.

The one that seems to me to be near the top of the list for comedy is the following. This trip happened during the time, several years ago, when Dr. Durfee was still around. He was in the habit of calling me in the morning and saying that he wouldn't be going out in his boat, and for me to take June out for a ride and do some fishing. Or perhaps, as I often did, take someone else. So on this day I called Johnny and asked him if he wanted to go. At that time Johnny was in his late twenties. At the present time he is called "Big John" and has a camera shop in Wakefield.

He elected to go so I got some bait with the idea of doing a little bottom fishing on a favorite spot which had been producing flatfish and tautog. On the way to the spot I told Johnny it was possible we would run into some blues and he had better look out for them as they were vicious and would be apt to take his plugs away from him. His reply was, "Oh, no they won't. No bluefish is going to be able to take a plug away from me!" I thought, at the time, his remark did a lot toward proving his age.

We arrived on the grounds, put the anchor over and things were very peaceful. About this time the fog closed in and blotted out even the houses that were only about 600 feet away. This didn't interfere with the fishing, though. We both put a line out and within a few minutes we caught a flat or two. Things settled down with no action when Johnny, who was lolling on the stern seat, sat up and said, "Hey, Ted, did you see those mummies* jump?"

I said, "No, but if they did, you better pull in your bottom rig and put on a plug as they were probably being pushed by blues."

Johnny really woke up and put on a white darter and heaved it out. No sooner than he started it in toward the boat, a fish smashed it. He got the fish up near the boat and list it. He still had his plug, though, and tried again with no result. In the meantime, I was putting on a "Skinny Blue." When I put it out on a short cast I had action immediately. I got it boated and in the tub. All I heard from Johnny, while I was taking in the next couple of fish was, "Did you see that one!" or "Wow, did you see him come out of water?"

Johnny had arranged all the plugs he had with him in a row on top of the engine hatch. He was trying each one for a few casts with the same results on all. They just would not hit them. I then told him to take a "Skinny Blue" out of my box which was also on the hatch. "There's nothing to it - you've just got to use a 'Skinny Blue'." This he did and right away a fish came up and whacked it. He got that one in the boat all right and a couple of others, too. The fourth one came tough and ran under the boat and broke the line. Not being one to needle (at least very much) I said, "I told you those bluefish were rough."

Johnny, in a voice that anyone up at the house could have heard yelled, "Well, he ran under the boat!"

Now to verify what I just said about needling, I kept quiet to see what would happen next. Johnny went back to his various plugs (which in fairness to the makers would probably take fish consistently at some other time or place but would not take them now.) All through this time he was trying his plugs, I was taking fish; not every cast but often enough to prove they were there. When he'd gone through all his plugs with the same false passes but still trying, I finally said, "Better take another one of those 'Skinny Blues'. He wasted no time, I can tell you, and had another fish on pronto. We both caught several more and then the action quit. The fog was thicker than ever so I said, "We can haul anchor and run up along the sand beach. Maybe they went that way."

We did just that and hadn't gone far when I heard a big splash and Johnny hollered, "Did you see that fish! His mouth opened as big as a water bucket and took the plug and about six feet of my line!"

So the blues got the second plug. By then it was about 4:30 P.M. so I said, "I guess that's it for the day." We got in by using the compass and a little listening for the siren on the end of the wall.

The next fishing column in the Providence Evening Bulletin told the story about how Johnny and I had gotten eighteen blues weighing over ten pounds each. They sure grew after they left the boat because they were all between seven and eight pounds according to my estimate.

The above account shows what has occurred in the past. This happened fishing from a boat. All the fish were caught while anchored. I have had numerous shore trips through the years which were equally enjoyable and comical as well. I may get around to writing about them someday. However, when one fishes every day in season and sometimes out of season, who gets the time?

*** Mummies in Rhode Island are the same killies in Long Island.**

GETTING READY

by DON VETTER

PART II

YOU HAVE WADED out into your favorite trout stream in the frigid water of early spring. The water feels like ice, as its pressure compresses your waders (or hip boots) into rubbery folds, tight against your legs. Just as you are about to make your first cast of the new season, disaster strikes. You feel the numbing cold water making egress into your badly leaking waders. You squelch your way shoreward, to the refuge of a car-heater. You are soaked to the skin, and the day is over before it began; you have no spare pants, socks or boots, and are a long way from home.

This has probably happened to most of us at one time or another. The time to find and fix boot leaks is before you venture forth. Assuming you have stored your waders in a cool place over the winter, and they are not dried out or worn beyond repair, now is the time to trot out the old patching kit. The actual repair is simple; just follow the instructions that came with the kit. First, though, you must find the leaks. Fill the waders/boots with tap water, and observe where the water is coming from. Mark the spot or spots with chalk, drain the boots, and get at the patching. Refill the boots with water to see how well you did; if there are still leaks, repeat the process. Stuff the boots with balled up newspapers, to expedite drying (a hairdryer can speed the process by blowing hot air into them).

There is some controversy as to which is best: waders (chest high) or hip boots. Though waders help keep out the chill in the early season, hip boots will suffice in most of our relatively shallow Long Island trout waters; for if you find yourself waist deep in the water, you are wading where you should be fishing. Your reporter compromises by employing both hip boots and waders at different times, and as the occasion calls for, during the course of the season. Whichever you choose, the standard, rubber-cleat soles are ideal for our soft bottom ponds and streams (far cry from the stony creeks of Vermont, where everything from felt soles to ice creepers were needed).

The old fashioned spilt-willow creel, which you have seen in so many trout pictures in this column, is more than just a picturesque affectation. It is the best means I know of for keeping fish fresh. It cools by evaporation, and may even be placed in the water, as a sort of live box. When leaving for home it is packed with moist grass or ferns, amongst the trout. An occasional cleaning with Westpine or Lysol, keeps it smelling clean.

The next item is the landing net. The standard size trout net is ofter of little use. I would suggest either getting one of larger size, or do as I usually do, and take your chances on beaching large fish.

When it comes to something to carry your tackle in, the small army-issue shoulder bag (often used by surf casters), has it all over a tackle box, which must be hand carried. The multi-pocket tackle vest is also good but the canvas shoulder-strap bag has the additional advantage of being able to tote bulky objects, like a spare reel and line spools.

It goes without saying that all hooks, either bait, lure or fly, should be sharp and rust free. A small hook hone should be a part of your kit when you fish. Metal lures should be bright and clean, and spinner blades should revolve freely. Avoid snelled hooks for bait fishing; a natural presentation is difficult with the stiff snell. Eagle claw or similar beak-type hooks in sizes No.6 through No. 2 will serve in most situations. Since everyone has his own pet spinning lure, most of which produce when worked properly, I won't attempt to name them here.

Neither will I discuss the myriad fly patterns (we will go into that subject in depth, in the coming weeks); besides, the first weeks of the season are not often the best for fly fishing. One thing in this line that bears looking into now, is the fly box. Pick a crush proof, ventilated aluminum model, of the type which holds the flies by means of spring-clips (the magnetic ones are often unreliable, and you may spill your entire fly collection when you least expect it). The care of the flies themselves is fairly simple. An occasional steaming will remove old dressing and restore the most bedraggled specimens to a semblence of their original state. For storage, remember that plastic boxes and moth balls do not mix well.

For now: a few words on the care and feeding of fly lines. The floating double taper (DT F) will serve for most trout fishing, whether you use dries, nymphs or wets. A sinking tip line is often an advantage, when fishing wets in deep pockets; but the floater, may be made to serve. Despite manufacturers' claims, many floatings need some dressing to keep them afloat. Always be sure that you are using the correct weight fly line for your particular rod; if it calls for 6 weight for example, a DT6F line would be ideal for trouting.

The spin fisherman should use the lightest test mono practical for his tackle, and be sure it is of the limp variety. The reel spool should be filled to within an an eight of an inch of the rim, to increase casting distance, by cutting down friction. How often to replace mono depends on how often you fish; I may change line in a few weeks, while others may get a season or more use from their's. When fishing natural bait or very light lures, retrieve the line through your fingers, to spool it evenly, and avoid tangles on subsequent casts.

There are a few items that belong in every trout fisherman's kit, be he fly or spinning man. A pair of needle nose pliars, a small screwdriver for on-the-spot reel repair and a small tube of lubricant are among them. A small hook disgorger, a pocket knife, and last but by no means least, a nail clipper. Now you are ready to fish.

Next week, the spring trout stocking list.

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CUSTOM ROD BUILDING

PART IV

BOAT, BAY AND SURF

by Dick Mermon

IF YOU HAVE been keeping up with this year's L.I.F. issues 4, 5, and 7 you should have some idea how custom fishing rods are built. The conventional boat rod is really one of the easiest to construct. But let me say something first.

Many surf bugs just take a blank they like, tape the guides on where they feel it will be best, add some rub-cork tape where the reel seat should be, and clamp the reel on at that spot. Don't laugh or knock it. It really works and you will see many a pro out there with one of these rods out-casting and out-fishing the fisherman decked out in finest, fanciest equipment. You see, it realy is not the rod that catches the fish, but the man or woman behind it. The surf rod is but a boat rod longer in length and in the butt section also.

The blank that is to be used, again, is up to you and what you want it for (or the type of fish to be caught). The tip top can be the standard ring but preferably of carboloid metal.

Guides are smaller size-rings than on the spinning rod and should also be carboloid? but stainless steel can be used instead, to cut the cost price down a wee bit.

The fore grip again, of one piece cork or rub-cork, six inches long or single rings are to be glued together to form the grip.

The reel seat can be of aluminum or chrome brass, from 1/2" to 13/16" inside diameter, depending upon the rod wanted and its weight. Surf rod reel seats are about 15/16" or 1" in diameter.

The butt section is usually pre-made and can be purchased as a separate unit with the other components. The one piece rods, which include the butt section from blank, can be constructed by following the directions in Part I and II of the spinning rod.

Assembling them to form a complete working unit is once again not that hard. The fore grip is slid down the glass blank to the area that has been slightly sanded as before. The use of wood dowl spacer is once again used, or a pre-made wood fore grip can be used in place of the cork and spacer. This is glued to the bottom of the blank and the tapered end tied tight with a cord, so as to keep a neat taper of the rod and fore grip.

The male part of the reel seat is then glued to the bottom of the fore grip with ferrel cement. At the same time the butt can be ferrel cemented together with the reel seat. Before it is attached, the wood butt should have been sanded smooth.

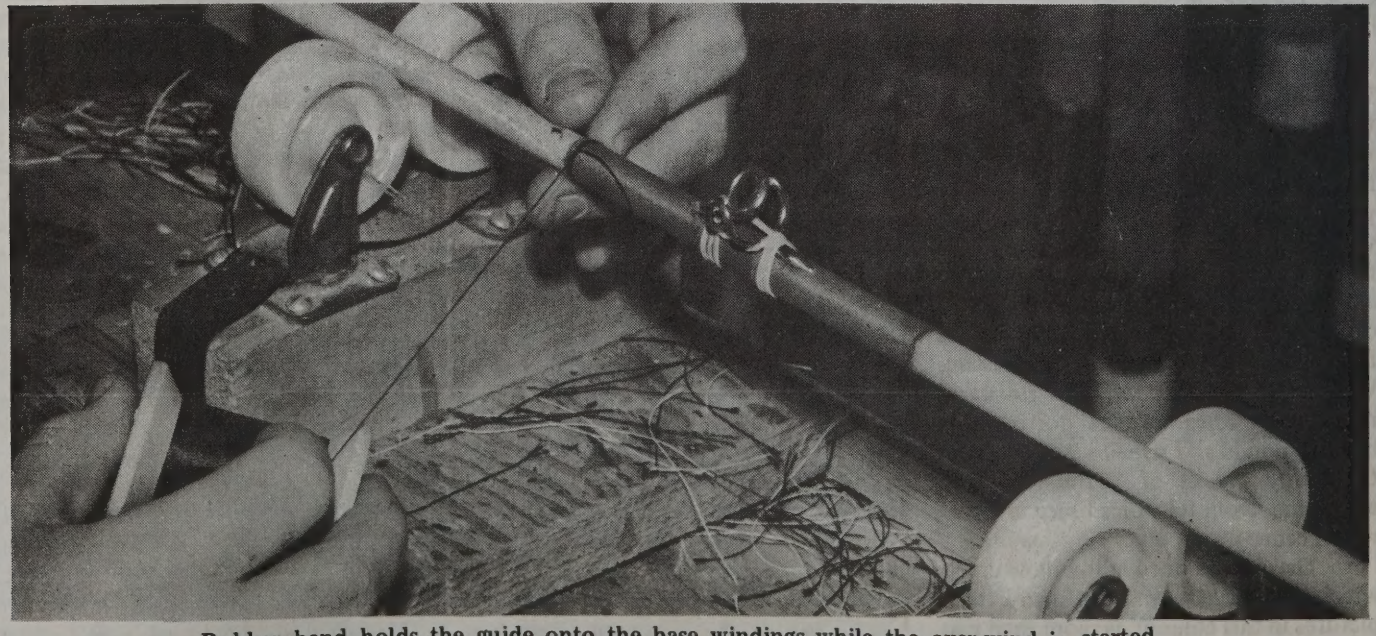
After all glues are dried, it is time to put on the tip top and wrap the guides onto the blank. In attaching the guides, they can be put directly onto the blank if you want. The guides should be spaced evenly, according to the bend of the blank and the amount of guides to be used depends upon the rod's length. There should be no less than four guides to a rod and that also includes the big surf sticks.

Rubber bands hold the guides to the blank temporarily until the guides are wound on.

Your taste in color choice of the winding thread should not be in your mouth, but in your eyes. Use a color scheme that will show the rod off and one you can be proud of.

After the windings are completed, the clear lacquer is brushed on and let dry. Then the final coats of good varnish or clear epoxy are applied. At the same time the butt section can be coated with the finish liquids. A slight sanding after each coat will give it a smooth, velvet finish. A rubber butt cap can be placed on the bottom of the butt for protection.

One thing that I have found when I use my own personally constructed rod, is that it gives me a great satisfaction to have defeated a large fish on something I personally created. It may sound strange that a grown man takes pride in whipping a fish, but I think there are many others in my boat and I hope there will be many more joining soon.

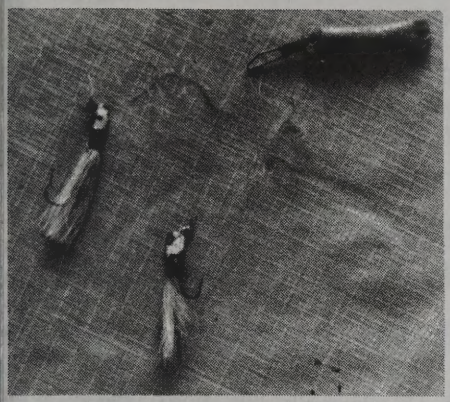


Rubber band holds the guide onto the base windings while the over-wind is started.

VINCE GUAGLIANONE

EARLY SPRINGTIME LURES

PART II



The Dropper-Mans.

YOU SEE what they are. A long mono leader of about 24 inches, and a separate shorter one of about 11 inches. Only about 15-pound test mono, linked to the little jigs and to the snap as shown. This rig is good in April for pollack in deeper waters, which is not hard to find off Rhody's East Wall near Point Judith and at the Finger Jetty in Galilee Harbor. The sinker is particularly geared to aid your casting. Made, naturally, by Ted Wells: this weight I had wrongly described in a previous photo with one of Ted's light swimming plugs. He wrote me: "The weight you show in L.I.F. Issue No. 4, 1973, is not made from auto metal. It is simply a 2½ inch piece of TV aerial tubing, pinched at one end, partially filled with lead, and pinched at the other end. Then the holes are drilled."

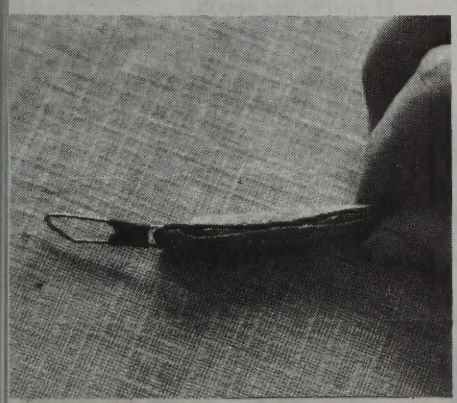
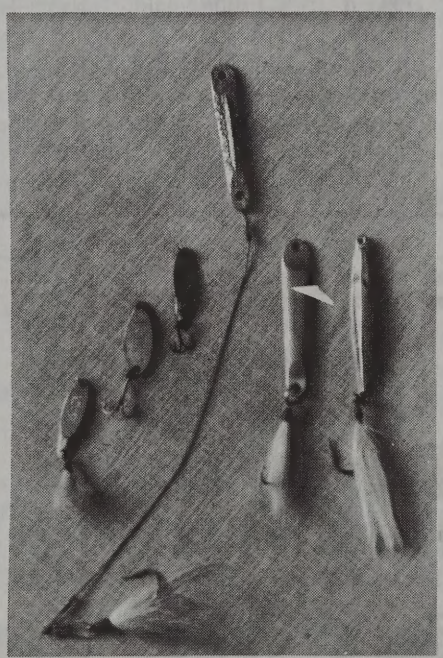


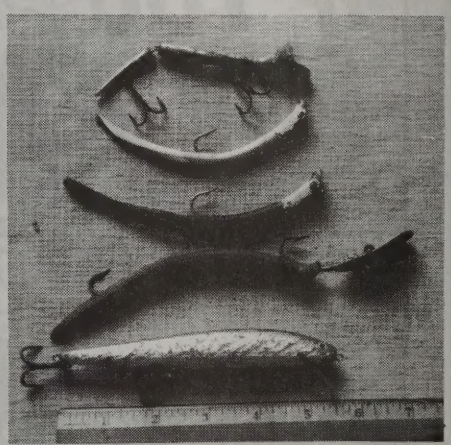
Photo No. 3 shows the weight, which is the dropper of the "Dropper-Mans."

As for pollack: we have taken the smash but finicky and harbor-small 'Boston Blues' in April at Galilee and Jerusalem up in Rhody. But these past few years the pollack have become increasingly smaller, and fewer. Yet, for what it may still do (and with an eye for early bass and also weakfish later on) try jigging the Dropper-Mans in select Long Island waters starting at Breezy Point on the west, and several deep spots along the south, like at the Montauk Jetties early spring. On the north: the Mattituck Jetties and Kenny Beach; Stony Brook Channel, and the Nissequogue's salty, fast and deep mouth from that great sandbar at Sunken Meadow.



Pure (Or Almost Pure) Metal

From left to right in photo No. 4 you see the little Kastmasters that, moving toward May, start taking schoolies on several deep and stony shores on the north, and in backwaters on the south. Some casters do it before May at Centre Island in Bayville, and with a variety of lures (including the ones to be described next). But these Kastmasters have taken pollack up to 5 pounds when the pollack that size came in to Galilee Harbor four years ago. The second, fatter job was home-made; Ted Wells of course (and this, I think, is what he made from "auto metal") . . . The thing in the middle, linked by strong wire leader to a single-hook bucktail is for winter-over cows which I never caught in March, though I was urged to try by Hap Kaine when he presented it to me last year. This old-time combo is well known and should still take stripers in the spring surf, dragged slow. It did get me a schoolie in Stony Brook Channel, where afterward it began to snag on the stones deep down. So I switched back to the Tri Fins that time . . . Next comes the famous No. 3 Hopkins, which is best with a single feathered hook (of which I have none left and do not know where to get any, easily) . . . And on the right in photo No. 4 is a Charlie Graves special, which he pulled out and gave me last fall to try on pollack this spring. As I have not used it yet, this is the one lure pictured here that has not caught fish - though be certain that Charlie Graves took plenty on it. (Please forgive the inaccuracy of this article's third sentence, Part I, last week).



Other Things And The Light Plug Type.

You should know already what these are. Top, the Eelet: good for deep fast water. Next, two Tri Fin Whiptails that prevented me from getting whipped last spring (What spring?) in deep fast water. The famous Garcia Alou III, which also in most shore experience wants deep fast water. And the famous Rebel swimmer at the bottom, of which the floater is the best model for most waters by the

Continued on Pg. 14

WHY PLUG A BEACH

by MIKE PARENTE

MANY PURE SURFCASTERS are known to be obsessed in regard to their sport. Not that they are alone in this respect, but their commitment to the surf appears to be stronger than other anglers in different areas of fishing. What provides this motivation? Is it the great amount of action that can be had from the surf? Could it be the ease of getting to a fishing area? Maybe it's the low cost of equipment for surf fishing. Well, the answer is no to all of the above.

To clarify the questions: (1) In general surfmen will catch less than boatmen unless the conditions swing to the casters' favor. (2) Many surfmen travel up to 400 miles and more, just for the chance of getting a fish; or skunked for that matter. (3) I know quite a few Strictly Casters who could buy any type boat their hearts desired, who instead invest seven or eight thousand dollars in a beach buggy. This leaves the initial question unanswered. Why?

My belief is this. No one can really appreciate surf fishing unless he's tried it. Catching a fish or two can't hurt either, by the way. I have fished boats (past tense), and caught some nice fish too; but I can honestly say that the pleasure of catching them from a beach is twice over that of boating a fish, (comparible size and species). Regardless of how light your tackle is while boatfishing, there is one thing you can't do: pull a fish through the breakers. When a fish reaches that area, it goes totally wild; especially bluefish. Many are lost at this stage of the fight, but instead of being detrimental, I feel it's a bonus. For this reason alone, many casters prefer the high surf over the quiet backwaters.

Strong rips also enhance the fun for beach-bound anglers. The rip on the west side of the Democrat Point Jetty for example, can make a medium sized fish seem pretty big. Feeling your plug working hard in a powerful rip, then having it nailed hard is one beautiful experience.

A few things you must remember though. One is not to make your success, or lack of it, effect your personality. Believe me, a few bad trips can turn some guys into werewolves. This is a pleasure sport. Treat it as such. Number two: Never let fishing interfere with your family obligations. A striper can lose you a wife as readily as some other factors. Six trips per week should be set as your maximum, unless the fish are there; or if it's fall; or a full moon; etc. - why then the seventh trip of course should be made.

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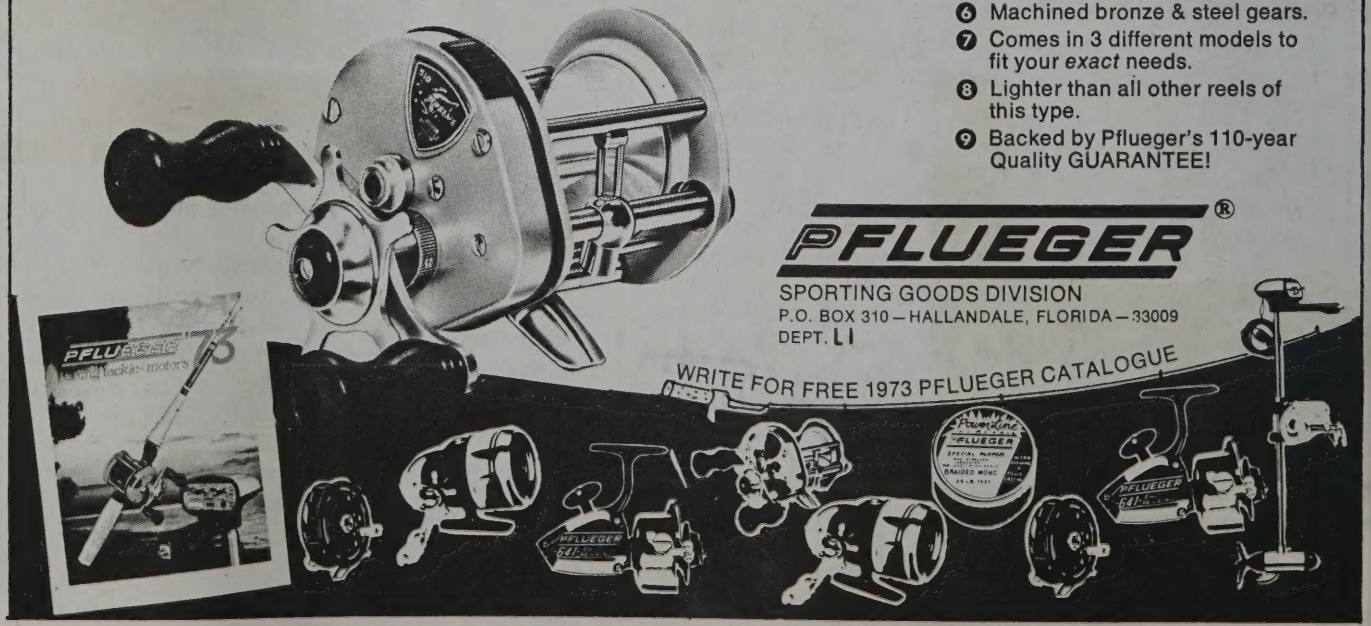

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FISH & GAME NEWS

BY FRED GUARDINEER

ST. PATRICK, WHO WAS BORN IN ENGLAND AND CAPTURED BY IRISH PIRATES, EVENTUALLY ESCAPED. HE RETURNED TO THE EMERALD ISLE TO BRING RELIGION TO THE WILD CELTS. HIS BIRTHDAY IS CELEBRATED ON MARCH 17 WITH MUCH MARCHING AND REFRESHMENTS. IT IS ALSO THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF ALL FISHING STATIONS.

I'D RATHER BE AT BUD TOOMEY'S TAVERN ON-THE-CRIK!

IT'S THE PLACE TO BE ON MARCH 17!

THE INTERNATIONAL GAME FISH ASSOCIATION ESTABLISHED A NEW 6 LB. LINE TEST CLASS TO ADD TO ITS OTHER CATEGORIES. ONE RECORD FISH FROM N.Y. STATE WAS JOHN RADE'S 33 LB. 2 OZ. STRIPED BASS.

TO KEEP A WORM STRETCHED OUT AND LIVELY, PASS THE LEADER THROUGH THE EYE OF A SMALL NO. 18 OR 16 HOOK BEFORE TYING ON THE BAIT HOOK. JAB EACH INTO THE WORM ONCE-LIGHTLY.

THE CARRION CROW IS NO LONGER YEAR ROUND FAIR GAME AND NOW RECEIVES BLANKET PROTECTION WITH SEASONS NOT TO EXCEED 124 DAYS A YEAR.

THE TROPICAL CONCH SHELL, THE SPIRAL HOME OF THE GASTROPOD, IS SOMETIMES MADE INTO A TRUMPET.

Continued from Pg. 7

a. Basic safety and navigational equipment: compass, adequate anchor 200' of anchor rope, life preservers.

b. Fishing tackle - minimum: 2 matched wire line trolling outfits, 1 heavy plugging outfit, 1 light plugging outfit, total lure assortment, hooks, weights, snaps, swivels of assorted types, leader material (100 yds. 20, 40, 50, 60), wire traces (12", 40 and 25).

(2) Important accessories:

a. Important safety and navigational equipment: first aid kit, horn, charts of area, tools, fire extinguisher, spare prop and pins.

b. Fishing gear: depth recorder (also navigational aid), gaff and club, rod holders (trolling positions), rod racks (out of the way storage), rain gear and boots, food and water containers, polarized amber sunglasses.

(3) Additional items:

a. General boat and fishing gear: tachometer (to adjust trolling speed - must be very accurate), binoculars, parallel pliers, needle nose pliers, oil, de-aquifying spray, general purpose knife.

(4(Very nice extras:

a. Boat equipment: C.B. Radio, RDF (Radio Direction Finder), spare gas tanks, auxiliary outboard engine.

b. Fishing gear: extra reels, spools, line, tip tops, guides.

With the above array of gear you can stay alive, maintain sufficient comfort to enable you to continue fishing, and - hopefully - catch a lot of fish.

Good boating!

Continued from Pg. 11

shore-based cast. The other makes (not shown) Rapala, Mee Mee, et. al., seem all to be nicely light (there may be sinker models of these makes); but if you find any too light to cast to breaking fish after a good wading out: do not succumb to buying something additional. Be better prepared for another experience perhaps the next time, by making a slim Ted Wells weight out of aerial tubing, and link it to the good light plug as shown before in this unique publication and presented below for your convenience again. No matter that the nifty little swimmer is a home-made job - and you should know who made it by this time.

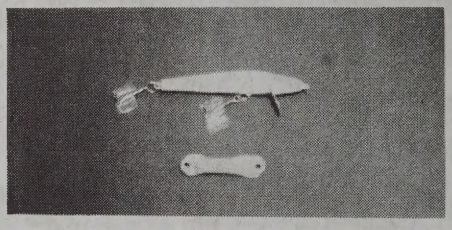

Photo of Frank Signoriello of Bellmore with some of the 44 keeper flounders he landed March 9th.

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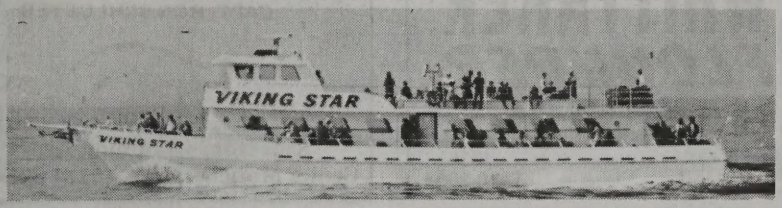

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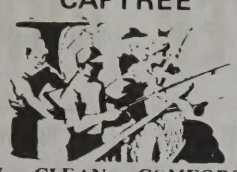

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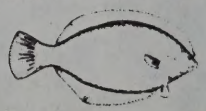

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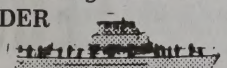

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LONG ISLAND REPORT

SCOTT SIMONS

SEAFORD

Lon Wanser Jr. reports that flounders are plentiful around the first bridge at Wantagh Park and from the bulkheads at Seaman Neck Road Park. The boats are all taking fish at the Four Corners and off Florence Beach. Average size is ½ to ¾, but there are still many throwbacks.

Dell's Fishing Station reports good catches on all boats. Two of his regulars, Gary Ward and Ken smelcer of Massapequa Park, returned with 26 keepers and returned over 50 small flounder to the water.

WANTAGH

Causeway Bait & Tackle reported good flounder fishing wherever a line was dropped. Frank said the warm weather has brought the flounders out of the mud the earliest he can remember. John Hollenbach of Levittown and Joe Chopot of Westbury fished the Merrick are and returned with 40 nice sized flounder.

LINDENHURST

Charlie of Charlie's Bait & Tackle said there is great flounder fishing all over-in the State Channel, Amityville Cut, Heckscher State Park, etc. The biggest flounder weighed in over the weekend went 1¾ lbs., and was taken by Tom Shaw of the Squaw Island Fishing Club.

MASTIC BEACH

Good flounder catches are being taken on the west side of the Smith Point Bridge, reports Keenan's Fishing Station. One customer even returned Sunday with a half bushel of blue claw crabs, pointing to a good season to match last year's blue claw bonanza.

Capt. And's Fishing Station reported few boats out due to the windy conditions, but those who did brave the weather returned with good catches.

MORICHES BAY

Frank at Cerullo Bros. Fishing Station reported good catches of flounder ranging from ½ to 1½ lbs. One customer boated 75 flatties from the area around Buoy 39. The Silly Lily Fishing Station will be open Saturday for the season.

SAG HARBOR

Despite the weather, Dan of Bayview Bait & Tackle called to report good fishing in the harbor. Sam Francisco and Bill Joyce took 15 flounder up to 1½ lbs. Good catches from the Northhaven Bridge and the big dock by the local fishermen. Dan said sunny weather this weekend should show a marked improvement in the flounder catches.

The Noyac Marina will open for the season this Saturday, and the Capt. Clark will be sailing beginning March 23rd. Good flounder catches are reported, though not many people fishing yet.

SHINNECOCK BAY

Good flounders in the canal when the locks are closed, Mickey of Altenkirch

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Charles Feelock, Dom LaConti, Charles Campanelli, of Lindenhurst, N.Y., caught their first flounder of the season off Heckscher State Park on bloodworms on Saturday, March 10, 1973.

& Son reports. Sizes vary, small one day, large the next. Good catches at the Indian Reservation and the Basket area. The Capt. Clark II will sail for flounder beginning March 23rd.

SOUTHOLD

The Port of Egypt in Southold will officially open for the season this Saturday. Reports indicate a good spring so if you have nothing to do during the week, grab a rod and reel and stop by.

The report from Capt. Ben Litwin was that there was very good fishing on Sunday and not as good on Saturday. On Sunday the catches averaged out at about 30 to 35 fish per man. The catches weren't half as good on Saturday. They fished the same area on both days (Heckscher Park and Bay Shore Channel). The pool fish on Sunday was a 2 lb. flounder, but most of the fish averaged ¾'s to 1¼ lbs. "The flatties are here. All we need now is some nice weather and a few more customers," said Capt. Ben.

Capt. Speedy Hubert hasn't gone out yet. He's waiting for his new boat to be ready. Just as soon as his 68 footer is ready to go, we should have some good fishing and reports from Capt. Speedy.

CAPTREE

Rod Westerlind, Jr., second mate on the Capt. Rod, gave us this report: On Saturday the flounder fishing was fair to good, Sunday, while fishing the Heckscher Park area and the Islip area, they had about 15 to 20 fish per man. The fish averaged ¾'s to 1¼ lbs. The 1¼ lb. fish were the top catches of the day.

Capt. Richie Westerlind of the Capt. Richie reported that on Saturday and Sunday the fishing was good. Sunday was the better day. They fished the Heckscher area using clams and worms.

The Captree Bait Station reported that the boats that are sailing are doing well with about 10 to 30 fish per man being the average. Most of these fish are of nice size. The pier fishing is also good,

MONTAUK

Capt. Richie Rade of the Marlin III reported that on Saturday they had 90 fish (cod and pollack) from 4 to 10 lbs. and also one snowshoe flounder (4½

lbs.). On Sunday, 550 fish (cod and pollack) were taken by 12 passengers. These fish weighed from 5 to 8 lbs. and went as high as 20 lbs. Everyone had a bag full of fish and some had more. All of this action took place at Block Island.

Capt. Paul Forsberg of the Viking Star reported that on Saturday the fishing was bad, while on Sunday it was very good. All the fishing took place at Block Island. The fish were small (7 to 15 lb. cod). A few snowshoe flounders were mixed in. The snowshoes went from 3 lbs. up. With cod being the main stay (300 fish for the day), you can be sure you won't be left out of the fun.

Capt. Jim Behan of the Peconic Queen (standing in for Capt. Les Behan who is taking a well deserved vacation) reports that the fishing was fair to good over the weekend. While fishing the Cartwright Grounds anglers had catches up to 25 lbs., however, mostly small fish were taken. Clams were used for bait.

CONNECTICUT SCENE

DICK ALLEY

MORE THAN 400 people gathered at Fairfield University on Tuesday, March 6th. It was standing room only, and there was little of that, as Al Reinfelder, president of the STRIPED BASS FUND INC" introduced Bob Boyle, Associate Editor of Sports Illustrated, Art Glowka of the Hudson River Fisherman's Association, Bob Pond of Stripers Unlimited and Atom fame, and Angus Macbeth, attorney for the Natural Resources Defense Council. All told a story, explaining the grave dangers to striped bass, and to the whole environment. It was well told, and well received, any my phone rang for two days, with calls from people who want to do more than become a member of "The Fund."

Gloria Borges of Norwalk is one of these people. "Every mother who has a child should be concerned," said Gloria. She would like to organize the ladies throughout Fairfield County. Women who fish, wives who have husbands that fish, and every mother whose children may someday fish, should organize to support the Striped Bass Fund. This sounds like a great idea to yours truly. Anyone interested can call Gloria in Norwalk, phone 203-866-8563.

Special thanks should go to Pat Carroll, Vice President and Director of the Fund,and Ignatz Horvath, of the Fairfield Boat Owners Association, and members of the Westport Striped Bass Club, for making it all possible. We all came away much more aware, and geared for battle.

Flounders are moving, and that's enough to set any fisherman's blood to simmering. Camerons Bait & Tackle already have their rental boats ready to go, and even before the paint was dry, first reports started coming in in the New Rochelle area. We had a bad phone connection, but the worms are in, and anglers should be eating fresh flatties for Sunday breakfast.

From the other end of the line came another report. Frank Rea at Outdoor Sports in New Haven passed along the word that flounder were being taken in the Mystic-Stonington-Niantic area, so we called Fred Fayal at Freddies Boat Livery in Stonington. Fred will have boats ready for the weekend, along with a full operation at his bait and tackle store, including the luncheonette, Freddies is on N. Water Street in Stonington.

Rocco Santora has his boats ready to go on the Byram River, which goes right along with those first flounder reports that came from the Sportsmen's Den in Greenwich. If first reports are an indication we're in for the best flattie run in many a year. The first few in Greenwich, averaged out at around ¾'s of a pound, while Stonington had some fish going a pound and a quarter.

We heard a report of some flounder taken in Rye, and in Bridgeport, Conn. we spoke to Orbit Bait & Tackle who have bait in, along with a new line of fresh and salt water equipment.

Most of the other tackle shops and liveries will be in full operation soon. The Westport Tackle Shop will be carrying bait for St. Patrick's Day, as will Mola Bros. Bait & Tackle, Four Winds Bait & Tackle, and The Tackle Box in Norwalk. Bob's Bait is now open for the year in Bridgeport, and will be carrying bait for the weekend.

With only slightly later openings, will be Riverside Marine in Westport, with bait, tackle, and boat rentals. Bill's Boat Livery in Bridgeport will plan for an early April opening, and the Housatonic Marina in Stratford predicts the same, dependent on weather.

One fact is certain. If there are flounder in Stonington, flounder in Rye and in New Rochelle, N'Y', flounder can also be caught in the Saugatuck River, the New Haven area, and all points in between.

Chances are, catches will run slow for a week or two, just as they're doing now, with two fish in one spot, and three in another, but as the water warms, so will the fishing picture.

If you haven't already done so, now is the time to trot down to your favorite tackle store with any rods or reels that need repairing, or new line. Get rid of those rusty hooks on old lures, and replace them with new ones. It's time to inventory your tackle box, replacing that Rebel, Tri Fin, or Alou Eel you lost at the height of the bass run last fall.

There's no worse feeling than to go on the first trip of the year, to find that a reel is seized up, some line frayed, a rod guide broken, or your net torn.

There's much to write about in the next few weeks. The fishing season happily creeps up on, then overwhelms a writer before he can cover everything he'd like to. There's Quincy, a new dynamic trout hatchery in the State of Conn., the Conn. trout season, as well as the earlier opener in N.Y. State, and suddenly, the stripers are running, and we're in paradise.

Which reminds me to remind you, that ice is out at both the Fisherman's Paradise in Danbury, and at Rainbow Lake Trout Farm in New Haven, and both are operating on weekends, just in case you have that early season trout itch.

Back to stripers. Every time we catch a striper this year, it should be a reminder. A reminder that we are in danger of losing not only this fish, but an entire Eco-System. Let your first striper remind you to become a member of the STRIPED BASS FUND INC.

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HUDSON RIVER
NEW JERSEY

PETE BARRETT

HE ONLY TWO shops open on the Hudson are Ace & Charlie's and and the Outdoorsmen LTD and both report good tommy cod fishing. Best spots are the old day liner pier at Bear Mountain, Croton Point, Scarboro, the Piermont pier and along the Palisades Interstate Park. The warm weather of last week had the tommies hitting fast and furious on sandworms at the top of the tide. The first catfish was reported and a few white perch from the Croton area but it is still too early to get any good fishing for them.

ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS

Fishing at the Oceanic Bridge, Henry Christensen had 103 flounder on bloodworms according to Joe Julian of Julian's Tackle. The river isn't the only good spot as shown by Bill Schmidt and George Bachart who took 60 from Spermacetti Cove behind the Sandy Hook Park.

LONG BRANCH PIER

There was little to say about the fishing at the Pier. Weekend manager, Bill Sowel wasn't even charging admission. This will change, however, in a week or two with the first showing of ling and whiting in a few weeks.

MONMOUTH BEACH

Paul Siciliano of Monmouth Tackle recommends fishing the bridges over the Navesink and Shrewsbury Rivers. Weekenders did well at the Oceanic, Seabright, Pleasure Bay and Highlands bridges for flounder using sandworms. Locals fish the dead-end streets along the rivers for some good bank fishing, but visitors may have some difficulty locating these. Best bet is to try the bridges.

TOMS RIVER

Ed Swartz of Bay Bridge Boats reported steady flounder activity for the past week with most anglers concentrated at the Mathis Bay Bridge. Bloods are the worms to use here and visitors like Phil Meulem of Hawthorne and Ed Wester and Art Dwan of Clifton had over 225 between them. Most catches are the usual small size for this time of year going only to 1 lb. at the most.

SEASIDE PARK

Flounder are hitting at the end of 14th Street, says Art of Jean & Arts Tackle Shop. The beach buggy boys are still staying at the back of Barnegat Inlet in the Island Beach Park. Some of the local juniors have had fair flounder action right in back of their store.

Judy & Bill's reported fair flounder fishing too, and not much striper activity due mostly to few fishermen. Water temperature is at 46 degrees and Bill recommends trying the pilings around the Berkley and Seaside Yacht Basins. The mouth of the Toms River should also be producing any day now.

LONG BEACH ISLAND

Flounder fishermen descended on Long Beach Island in sufficient numbers for Vince Goddard's Tackle to completely sell out of bloodworms. The good spots are behind the Acme Market, the bulkheads at Barnegat Light and along the banks at Little Egg Harbor. Betty Goddard reported good fishing along all the banks and bulkheads.

GREAT BAY

Stripers are moving well enough for full time attention and Great Bay regulars are taking bass, mostly shorts, but in good numbers. Bob Peschco of Tuckerton weighed in his biggest so far at Great Bay Marina to tip the scales at 5 lbs. 2 ozs. Tom Henrich reported other bass up to 3½ lbs. with most catches coming from Graveling Point. Flounder fishermen are in the middle of some fast action at the middle grounds and at the Stink House.

MULLICA RIVER

Stripers are hitting well all through the Mullica from the Parkway Bridge out to Great Bay according to Ken Wiseman of Chestnut Neck Boat Yard. Locals are fishing at night for better and bigger catches. Bloodworms are the bait but some bass have hit bucktails for Joe Latrella. The wind and rain of the weekend have muddied up the water and bucktails won't be effective on a regular basis until the water clears.

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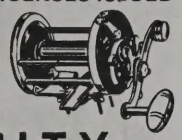
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SANDY HOOK

Capt. Bunting of the Sea Horse is still sailing daily for cod and whiting, and is doing a pretty fair job. The Captain also reports the flounder fishing in the Shrewsbury River to be good to excellent not only from the boats. but also from the docks and bulkheads.

Joe of Julian's Bait & Tackle at the Atlantic Highlands reports the flounder fishing is pretty good. Frank Levy of Navesink, N.J., fishing at Rumson, had

STATEN ISLAND

Lenny Killoran of Santo's Sport Shop called to say that the founder fishing at Great Kills Harbor and Great Kills Beach is starting to improve, with catches of ½ to 1 dozen fish per man being made. The fish are running ½ to ¾ of a pound. Len feels the fishing pressure is still very light.

HOWARD BEACH

John Brando of Cross Bay Rod & Gun Shop had reports of good flounder fishing from the North Channel and South Channel bridges. Most of the local boys of their fishing from the bridges and do quite well.

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SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Mike Miffia of Mike's Tackle let us know that most of the head boats are fishing the Scallop Ridge, making fair catches of cod and whiting of mixed sizes. The Helen H had a pretty good day at the Ridge in the middle of the week. Weather permitting, the situation should be changing shortly, for the better.

Joe Lauro of Stella Maris sees the flounder fishing picking up pretty fast. Some good catches are coming in for the very few who are trying. Joe feels with the better weather coming in, we should see more people out fishing. Fish up to 1½ lbs. were not uncommon in the catches that Joe saw.

Harold Anderson of Bay End dock reports the fishing is a little better than last week, with the bulk of the catches being made on the flats and the bay side of the Jetty. Harold says the fish are there, all he needs is the fisherman.

Capt. Rocky Becker of the Tampa IV is planning, weather permitting, some offshore trips for giant cod and pollack, the 17th and 18th are the tentative dates. Call Rocky for any further information and reservations.

Capt. Charlie Locurto of the Tone B is still making fair to good catches of cod at Scallop Ridge. Charlie says you have to sit and wait them out, and keep those shells cracking.

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45 keepers and as many throwbacks. The keepers average ¾'s of a pound. Chris's Landing, located at Seabright, has also been a hot spot. Joe said the local fellows fishing the bulkheads around the Highlands were doing as good as anywhere else. Best baits were sand and bloodworms used with mussel chum.

POINT LOOKOUT

Ed Wardle of Ed's Fishing Station feels that the good flounder fishing has started. Most of the boats coming into the station had 50 to 100 keepers up to 1½ lbs. The best fishing seemed to be on the flats at Sea Dog Creek near Meadow Island. Worms and mussels took the lions share. Ed predicts this season as one of the best in a long time.

Capt. Henry Thorschmidt informs us that the Blue Albatross I will start flounder fishing daily this week, leaving the dock at 7:30 AM. The Blue Albatross II will continue fishing offshore for cod and whiting. The local wrecks are still parting with a few cod and plenty of whiting to keep you busy.

ATLANTIC BEACH

Sy Rubin of Henning's Fishing Station is content with the flounder fishing in his area. The boats are coming in with an average of 50 keepers each, with fish up to 1½ lbs. Bob Brennan, of Rockaway, came in with a ½ bushel of flatties up to 1¼ lbs. His fishing was done at

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Duck Point. Most of the boys fishing the Rockaway side bank of Bannister Creek did well, their catches being above average for this time of year. Bloodworms were taking the most fish.

FREEPORT

Lou Stalker of Charvin Fishing Station called to let us know that the station will be officially open on March 17th. Lou says the tackle shop has been enlarged and the main building has been expanded; more room for better service. One of Lou's friends, fishing the Baldwin Bay this week, hand 150 keepers up to 1 lb. Swift Creek and Merrick Bay are also producing good catches this week. It appears that the mussel situation looks pretty bad. Keep your fingers crossed, it may improve.

Al Lindroth of the Capt. Al had a good day's fishing for his fares on Saturday boating 394 keepers up to 1½ lbs. High hook was Tom Thompson of Wantagh with 38 keepers. Mr. and Mrs. Phil Ferger of Cairo, N.Y. had 45 keepers to their credit. The bulk of the fishing was done in Gilgo area of the State Channel.

Capt. Marty Dombrowski of the Woodcleft Charter Boats is happy to report that some of the boats at the dock will start running soon. The Blue Fin and the Gladys B will be running in two weeks. Marty says it looks like a great flounder season coming up.

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TIDES: SOUTH SHORE
SANDY HOOK STATION

DAY	A.M.	P.M.
Thur.	4:46	5:21
Fri.	5:41	6:10
Sat.	6:30	6:54
Sun.	7:13	7:35
Mon.	7:52	8:14
Tues.	8:30	8:53
Wed.	9:08	9:31
Thur.	9:44	10:07

	H.	M.
MANASQUAN	-0	12
STATEN ISLAND	+0	07
ROCKAWAY INLET	0	00
Bergen Beach	+0	29
J.F.K. Airport	+0	26
EAST ROCKAWAY INLET	-0	06
Long Beach Bridge	+0	19
JONES INLET	-0	19
Loop Pkwy. Bridge	+0	25
Zachs Bay	+1	25
Oligo Island	+2	25
Seaford Harbor	+2	05
FIRE ISLAND INLET	-0	38
West Great South Bay	+2	10
Heckscher State Park	+3	20
East Great South Bay	+3	44
MORICHES INLET	-0	56
Smiths Point	+3	28
Haris Cove	+1	30
Potunk Point	+3	35
SHINNECOCK INLET	-0	50
East Quogue	+2	45
Shinnecock Canal	+1	18
Indian Reservation	+3	05

TIDES: L.I. SOUND
WILLETS POINT STATION

DAY	A.M.	P.M.
Thur.	8:51	9:22
Fri.	9:44	10:10
Sat.	10:33	10:53
Sun.	11:16	11:32
Mon.	11:55	-----
Tues.	12:05	12:27
Wed.	12:33	12:53
Thur.	12:58	1:16

	H.	M.
Little Neck Bay	-0	10
Execution Light	-0	06
Manhasset Bay	-0	01
Hempstead Harbor	-0	11
City Island	-0	03
Rye Beach	-0	28

TIDES: L.I. SOUND
BRIDGEPORT STATION

DAY	A.M.	P.M.
Thur.	8:13	8:43
Fri.	9:08	9:31
Sat.	9:58	10:17
Sun.	10:43	10:58
Mon.	11:24	11:39
Tues.	-----	12:05
Wed.	12:20	12:43
Thur.	12:58	1:26

	H.	M.
Lloyd Point	+0	08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0	08
Bayville Bridge	+0	13
Eatons Neck Point	+0	03
Northport Bay	+0	03
Norwalk Islands	+0	10
Smithtown Bay	-0	03
Cranes Neck Point	+0	05
Port Jeff Harbor	+0	03
New Haven Harbor	-0	08
Mount Sinai Harbor	+0	08
Herod Point	-0	07
Mattituck Inlet	+0	19
Horton Point	-0	20
Truman Beach	-0	42

TIDES: B.I. SOUND
NEW LONDON STATION

DAY	A.M.	P.M.
Thur.	6:20	6:52
Fri.	7:16	7:41
Sat.	8:04	8:24
Sun.	8:50	9:05
Mon.	9:31	9:46
Tues.	10:10	10:27
Wed.	10:50	11:08
Thur.	11:31	11:50

	H.	M.
Orient Point	+0	27
Connecticut River	+1	10
Little Gull Island (Race)	+0	12
Greenport	+1	04
Southold	+1	43
New Suffolk	+2	26
South Jamesport	+2	32
Shinnecock Canal	+2	33
Noyack Bay	+2	05
Sag Harbor	+0	59
Gardiners Bay	+0	21
Promised Land (Napeague)	-0	14
Fort Pond Bay	-0	29
Montauk Inlet	-0	25
Montauk Point	-1	13

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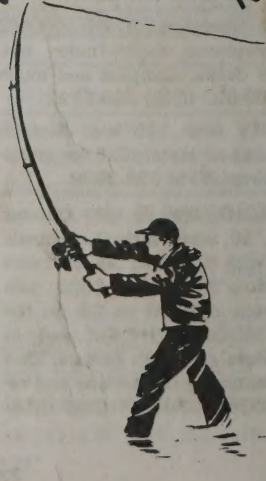

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